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1. (original) A network system, comprising:

a first computer configured to maintain an object having an attribute, the attribute comprised of individual values, the individual values having conflict-resolution data;

a second computer configured to maintain a replica object, the replica object being replicated from the object; and

the second computer further configured to replicate the object from the first computer and resolve a replication conflict between a value of the attribute in the object and the value of the attribute in the replica object, the replication conflict being resolved with the conflict-resolution data.

2. (original) A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the second computer is further configured to compare the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of the attribute in the object and the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of the attribute in the replica object to resolve the replication conflict.

3. (original) A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the conflict-resolution data comprises a version indicator that corresponds to a version of an individual value.

1       4.    (original)   A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
2 conflict-resolution data comprises a version number that corresponds to a version  
3 of an individual value, and wherein the second computer is further configured to:

4           compare the version number associated with the value of the attribute in the  
5 object and the version number associated with the value of the attribute in the  
6 replica object to resolve the replication conflict; and

7           update the value of the attribute in the replica object if the value has a lower  
8 version number than the value of the attribute in the object.

9  
10       5.   (original)   A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
11 conflict-resolution data comprises an update indicator that corresponds to when an  
12 individual value is updated.

13  
14       6.   (original)   A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
15 conflict-resolution data comprises an update timestamp that corresponds to when  
16 an individual value is updated, and wherein the second computer is further  
17 configured to:

18           compare the update timestamp associated with the value of the attribute in  
19 the object and the update timestamp associated with the value of the attribute in  
20 the replica object to resolve the replication conflict; and

21           update the value of the attribute in the replica object if the value has an  
22 earlier update timestamp than the value of the attribute in the object.

1 7. (original) A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
2 conflict-resolution data comprises a creation indicator that corresponds to when an  
3 individual value is created.

4  
5 8. (original) A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
6 conflict-resolution data comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when  
7 an individual value is created, and wherein the second computer is further  
8 configured to:

9 compare the creation timestamp associated with the value of the attribute in  
10 the object and the creation timestamp associated with the value of the attribute in  
11 the replica object to resolve the replication conflict; and

12 update the value of the attribute in the replica object if the value has an  
13 earlier creation timestamp than the value of the attribute in the object.

14  
15 9. (original) A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
16 conflict-resolution data comprises a version indicator that corresponds to a version  
17 of an individual value and an update indicator that corresponds to when the  
18 individual value is updated.

1 **10. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
2 conflict-resolution data comprises a version number that corresponds to a version  
3 of an individual value and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the  
4 individual value is updated, and wherein the second computer is further configured  
5 to:

6 compare the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of the  
7 attribute in the object and the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of  
8 the attribute in the replica object; and

9 resolve the replication conflict in favor of the value that first has a higher  
10 version number, and second has a later update timestamp.

11  
12 **11. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
13 conflict-resolution data comprises a version number that corresponds to a version  
14 of an individual value and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the  
15 individual value is updated, and wherein the second computer is further configured  
16 to:

17 compare the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of the  
18 attribute in the object and the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of  
19 the attribute in the replica object to resolve the replication conflict;

20 update the value of the attribute in the replica object if the value has a lower  
21 version number than the value of the attribute in the object; and

22 if the version number associated with the value of the attribute in the  
23 replica object is equivalent to the version number associated with the value of the  
24  
25

1 attribute in the object, update the value of the attribute in the replica object if the  
2 value has an earlier update timestamp than the value of the attribute in the object.

3  
4 12. (original) A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
5 conflict-resolution data comprises a creation indicator that corresponds to when an  
6 individual value is created, a version indicator that corresponds to a version of the  
7 individual value, and an update indicator that corresponds to when the individual  
8 value is updated.

9  
10 13. (original) A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
11 conflict-resolution data comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when  
12 an individual value is created, a version number that corresponds to a version of  
13 the individual value, and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the  
14 individual value is updated, and wherein the second computer is further configured  
15 to:

16 compare the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of the  
17 attribute in the object and the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of  
18 the attribute in the replica object; and

19 resolve the replication conflict in favor of the value that first has a later  
20 creation timestamp, second has a higher version number, and third has a later  
21 update timestamp.

1 14. (original) A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
2 conflict-resolution data comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when  
3 an individual value is created, a version number that corresponds to a version of  
4 the individual value, and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the  
5 individual value is updated, and wherein the second computer is further configured  
6 to:

7 compare the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of the  
8 attribute in the object and the conflict-resolution data associated with the value of  
9 the attribute in the replica object to resolve the replication conflict;

10 update the value of the attribute in the replica object if the value has an  
11 earlier creation timestamp than the value of the attribute in the object;

12 if the creation timestamp associated with the value of the attribute in the  
13 replica object is equivalent to the creation timestamp associated with the value of  
14 the attribute in the object, update the value of the attribute in the replica object if  
15 the value has a lower version number than the value of the attribute in the object;  
16 and

17 if the version number associated with the value of the attribute in the  
18 replica object is equivalent to the version number associated with the value of the  
19 attribute in the object, update the value of the attribute in the replica object if the  
20 value has an earlier update timestamp than the value of the attribute in the object.

1       **15. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
2 individual values have an associated deletion indicator that is a null identifier to  
3 indicate the existence of a value of the attribute in the object.

4  
5       **16. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
6 individual values have an associated deletion indicator that corresponds to when  
7 an individual value is marked for deletion from the attribute in the object.

8  
9       **17. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
10 individual values have an associated deletion timestamp that corresponds to when  
11 an individual value is marked for deletion from the attribute in the object, and  
12 wherein the second computer is further configured to delete a value from the  
13 attribute in the object if the value has a deletion timestamp that indicates the value  
14 is marked for deletion.

15  
16       **18. (currently amended)** A state-based replication system,  
17 comprising:

18       an object having an attribute comprised of linked values, individual linked  
19 values having indicators to indicate a change to a linked value of the attribute; and

20       a computing device configured to replicate the object and, with the  
21 indicators, identify a change to a linked value of the attribute.

1 19. (currently amended) A state-based replication system as  
2 recited in claim 18, wherein the computing device is further configured to:

3 maintain a replica object, the replica object being replicated from the  
4 object; and

5 compare the object with the replica object to identify, with the indicators, a  
6 linked value replication conflict.

7  
8 20. (currently amended) A state-based replication system as  
9 recited in claim 18, wherein the indicators comprise a version indicator that  
10 corresponds to a version of a linked value.

11  
12 21. (currently amended) A state-based replication system as  
13 recited in claim 18, wherein the indicators comprise an update indicator that  
14 corresponds to when a linked value is changed.

15  
16 22. (currently amended) A state-based replication system as  
17 recited in claim 18, wherein the indicators comprise a creation indicator that  
18 corresponds to when a linked value is created.

19  
20 23. (currently amended) A state-based replication system as  
21 recited in claim 18, wherein the indicators comprise a version number that  
22 corresponds to a version of a linked value and an update timestamp that  
23 corresponds to when the linked value is changed.



24. (currently amended) A state-based replication system as recited in claim 18, wherein the indicators comprise a creation timestamp that corresponds to when a linked value is created, a version number that corresponds to a version of the linked value, and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the linked value is changed.

25. (currently amended) A state-based replication system as recited in claim 18, wherein the indicators comprise a deletion indicator that has a null identifier to indicate the existence of a linked value of the attribute.

26. (currently amended) A state-based replication system as recited in claim 18, wherein the indicators comprise a deletion timestamp that corresponds to when a linked value is marked for deletion from the attribute.

1 27. (original) A state-based replication system, comprising:  
2 a first computer configured to maintain a first data structure, the first data  
3 structure having a multi-valued attribute comprised of linked values, individual  
4 linked values having conflict-resolution information to indicate a change to a  
5 value of the attribute;

6 a second computer configured to maintain a second data structure having  
7 the multi-valued attribute comprised of the linked values; and

8 the first and second data structures configured to be replicated and to have a  
9 replication conflict between a value of the attribute in the first data structure and a  
10 value of the attribute in the second data structure resolved with the conflict-  
11 resolution information associated with the values.

12  
13 28. (original) A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
14 wherein the first and second computers are further configured to:

15 compare the conflict-resolution information associated with the value of the  
16 attribute in the first data structure with the conflict-resolution information  
17 associated with the value of the attribute in the second data structure;

18 identify a replication conflict; and

19 resolve the replication conflict with the conflict-resolution information  
20 associated with the values.

21  
22 29. (original) A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
23 wherein the conflict-resolution information comprises a version indicator that  
24 corresponds to a version of an individual linked value.  
25

1       30. (original) A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
2 wherein:

3       the conflict-resolution information comprises a version number that  
4 corresponds to a version of an individual linked value;

5       the first and second computers are further configured to compare the  
6 version number associated with the linked value of the attribute in the first data  
7 structure with the version number associated with the linked value of the attribute  
8 in the second data structure;

9       the first computer is further configured to update the linked value of the  
10 attribute in the first data structure if the linked value has a lower version number  
11 than the linked value of the attribute in the second data structure; and

12       the second computer is further configured to update the linked value of the  
13 attribute in the second data structure if the linked value has a lower version  
14 number than the linked value of the attribute in the first data structure.

15  
16       31. (original) A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
17 wherein the conflict-resolution information comprises an update indicator that  
18 corresponds to when an individual linked value is changed.

1        **32. (original)** A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
2 wherein:

3        the conflict-resolution information comprises an update timestamp that  
4 corresponds to when an individual linked value is changed;

5        the first and second computers are further configured to compare the update  
6 timestamp associated with the linked value of the attribute in the first data  
7 structure with the update timestamp associated with the linked value of the  
8 attribute in the second data structure;

9        the first computer is further configured to update the linked value of the  
10 attribute in the first data structure if the linked value has an earlier update  
11 timestamp than the linked value of the attribute in the second data structure; and

12        the second computer is further configured to update the linked value of the  
13 attribute in the second data structure if the linked value has an earlier update  
14 timestamp than the linked value of the attribute in the first data structure.

15  
16        **33. (original)** A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
17 wherein the conflict-resolution information comprises a creation indicator that  
18 corresponds to when an individual linked value is created.

1 34. (original) A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
2 wherein:

3 the conflict-resolution information comprises a creation timestamp that  
4 corresponds to when an individual linked value is created;

5 the first and second computers are further configured to compare the  
6 creation timestamp associated with the linked value of the attribute in the first data  
7 structure with the creation timestamp associated with the linked value of the  
8 attribute in the second data structure;

9 the first computer is further configured to update the linked value of the  
10 attribute in the first data structure if the linked value has an earlier creation  
11 timestamp than the linked value of the attribute in the second data structure; and

12 the second computer is further configured to update the linked value of the  
13 attribute in the second data structure if the linked value has an earlier creation  
14 timestamp than the linked value of the attribute in the first data structure.

15  
16 35. (original) A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
17 wherein the conflict-resolution information comprises a version indicator that  
18 corresponds to a version of an individual linked value and an update indicator that  
19 corresponds to when the individual linked value is changed.

1       **36. (original)** A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
2 wherein the conflict-resolution information comprises a creation indicator that  
3 corresponds to when an individual linked value is created, a version indicator that  
4 corresponds to a version of the individual linked value, and an update indicator  
5 that corresponds to when the individual linked value is changed.

6  
7       **37. (original)** A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
8 wherein the individual linked values have an associated deletion indicator that is a  
9 null identifier to indicate the existence of a linked value of the multi-valued  
10 attribute.

11  
12       **38. (original)** A state-based replication system as recited in claim 27,  
13 wherein the individual linked values have an associated deletion indicator that  
14 corresponds to when an individual linked value is marked for deletion from the  
15 multi-valued attribute.

1 39. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having  
2 stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

3 a first data field containing an attribute;

4 a second data field containing a linked value of the attribute contained in  
5 the first data field;

6 a third data field containing a version indicator corresponding to a version  
7 of the linked value contained in the second data field; and

8 a fourth data field containing an update indicator corresponding to when the  
9 version indicator contained in the third data field is changed.

10  
11 40. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium as recited  
12 in claim 39, wherein the data structure further comprises a fifth data field  
13 containing a creation indicator corresponding to when the linked value contained  
14 in the second data field is created.

15  
16 41. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium as recited  
17 in claim 39, wherein the data structure further comprises a sixth data field  
18 containing a deletion indicator corresponding to the linked value contained in the  
19 second data field and configured to indicate when the linked value is marked for  
20 deletion from the data structure.

1 42. (original) A network system, comprising:

2 a first computer configured to replicate objects at an attribute level, and  
3 further configured to maintain an object having a multi-valued attribute, the multi-  
4 valued attribute comprised of individual values;

5 a second computer configured to replicate objects at an attribute value  
6 level, and further configured to maintain a second object, the second object having  
7 a multi-valued attribute comprised of individual values, the individual values  
8 configured to have conflict-resolution data;

9 the first computer further configured to:

10 replicate the second object from the second computer;

11 resolve a replication conflict between the object and the second  
12 object at the attribute level; and

13 resolve a replication conflict between the object and the second  
14 object at the attribute value level with the conflict-resolution data.

15  
16 43. (original) A network system as recited in claim 42, wherein the  
17 first computer first resolves the replication conflict between the object and the  
18 second object at the attribute level, and second resolves the replication conflict  
19 between the object and the second object at the attribute value level.

20  
21 44. (original) A network system as recited in claim 42, wherein the  
22 first computer does not replicate a value from the second object if the value does  
23 not have conflict-resolution data.  
24  
25



1       **45. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 42, wherein the  
2 first computer does not replicate a value from the second object if the value has  
3 null conflict-resolution data.

4  
5       **46. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 42, wherein the  
6 first computer resolves the replication conflict between the object and the second  
7 object at the attribute value level in favor of a value that has conflict-resolution  
8 data.

9  
10       **47. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 42, wherein the  
11 first computer resolves the replication conflict between the object and the second  
12 object at the attribute value level in favor of a value that has non-null conflict-  
13 resolution data.

14  
15       **48. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 42, wherein the  
16 second computer is further configured to:

17               replicate the object from the first computer;

18               resolve a replication conflict between the object and the second  
19 object at the attribute level; and

20               resolve a replication conflict between the object and the second  
21 object at the attribute value level with the conflict-resolution data.

1 49. (original) A network system as recited in claim 48, wherein the  
2 second computer first resolves the replication conflict between the object and the  
3 second object at the attribute level, and second resolves the replication conflict  
4 between the object and the second object at the attribute value level.

5  
6 50. (original) A network system as recited in claim 48, wherein the  
7 second computer does not replicate a value from the object if the value does not  
8 have conflict-resolution data.

9  
10 51. (original) A network system as recited in claim 48, wherein the  
11 second computer does not replicate a value from the object if the value has null  
12 conflict-resolution data.

13  
14 52. (original) A network system as recited in claim 48, wherein the  
15 second computer resolves the replication conflict between the object and the  
16 second object at the attribute value level in favor of a value that has conflict-  
17 resolution data.

18  
19 53. (original) A network system as recited in claim 48, wherein the  
20 second computer resolves the replication conflict between the object and the  
21 second object at the attribute value level in favor of a value that has non-null  
22 conflict-resolution data.

1 **54. (original)** A network system as recited in claim 48, wherein the  
2 second computer is further configured to delete a value from the second object if  
3 the value does not have conflict resolution data, and if the value is not replicated  
4 from the object.

5  
6 **55. (original)** A method, comprising:  
7 replicating an object stored in a first directory with a replica object stored in  
8 a second directory, the object and the replica object having an attribute comprised  
9 of individual values, the individual values having conflict-resolution data;  
10 comparing a value of the attribute in the object with a value of the attribute  
11 in the replica object to identify a replication conflict; and  
12 resolving the replication conflict with the conflict-resolution data.

13  
14 **56. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 55, wherein  
15 the conflict-resolution data comprises a version number that corresponds to a  
16 version of an individual value, and wherein said comparing comprises determining  
17 if a value version number has been changed.

18  
19 **57. (original)** A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the conflict-  
20 resolution data comprises a version number that corresponds to a version of an  
21 individual value, said comparing comprises determining if a value version number  
22 has been changed, and the method further comprises updating the value of the  
23 attribute that has a lower version number with the value of the attribute that has a  
24 higher version number.  
25

1 **58. (original)** A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the conflict-  
2 resolution data comprises an update timestamp that corresponds to when an  
3 individual value is changed, and wherein said comparing comprises determining if  
4 a value update timestamp has been changed.

5  
6 **59. (original)** A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the conflict-  
7 resolution data comprises an update timestamp that corresponds to when an  
8 individual value is changed, said comparing comprises determining if a value  
9 update timestamp has been changed, and the method further comprises updating  
10 the value of the attribute that has an earlier update timestamp with the value of the  
11 attribute that has a later update timestamp.

12  
13 **60. (original)** A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the conflict-  
14 resolution data comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when an  
15 individual value is created, and wherein said comparing comprises determining if  
16 a creation timestamp has been changed.

17  
18 **61. (original)** A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the conflict-  
19 resolution data comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when an  
20 individual value is created, said comparing comprises determining if a creation  
21 timestamp has been changed, and the method further comprises updating the value  
22 of the attribute that has an earlier creation timestamp with the value of the attribute  
23 that has a later creation timestamp.

1 62. (original) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the conflict-  
2 resolution data comprises a version number that corresponds to a version of an  
3 individual value and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the individual  
4 value is changed, and wherein said comparing comprises determining if a value  
5 version number has been changed and if the value update timestamp has been  
6 changed.

7  
8 63. (original) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the conflict-  
9 resolution data comprises a version number that corresponds to a version of an  
10 individual value and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the individual  
11 value is changed, and the method further comprises updating the value of the  
12 attribute that first has a lower version number, and second has an earlier update  
13 timestamp.

14  
15 64. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer  
16 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform  
17 the method of claim 63.  
18  
19  
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1        **65. (original)** A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the conflict-  
2 resolution data comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when an  
3 individual value is created, a version number that corresponds to a version of the  
4 individual value, and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the individual  
5 value is changed, and wherein said comparing comprises determining if a value  
6 creation timestamp has been changed, if the value version number has been  
7 changed, and if the value update timestamp has been changed.

8  
9        **66. (original)** A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the conflict-  
10 resolution data comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when an  
11 individual value is created, a version number that corresponds to a version of the  
12 individual value, and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the individual  
13 value is changed, and the method further comprises updating the value of the  
14 attribute that first has an earlier creation timestamp, second has a lower version  
15 number, and third has an earlier update timestamp.

16  
17        **67. (original)** A computer-readable medium comprising computer  
18 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform  
19 the method of claim 66.

20  
21        **68. (original)** A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the  
22 individual values have a deletion timestamp that is a null identifier to indicate the  
23 existence of a value of the attribute.  
24  
25

1       69. (original) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the  
2 individual values have a deletion timestamp that corresponds to when an  
3 individual value is marked for deletion from the attribute.

4  
5       70. (original) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the  
6 individual values have a deletion timestamp that corresponds to when an  
7 individual value is marked for deletion from the attribute, and the method further  
8 comprises deleting a value from the attribute if the value has a deletion timestamp  
9 that indicates the value is marked for deletion.

10  
11       71. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer  
12 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform  
13 the method of claim 70.

14  
15       72. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer  
16 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform  
17 the method of claim 55.

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1 73. (original) A method for replicating a linked value of a multi-  
2 valued attribute contained in an object, the linked value having conflict-resolution  
3 information and replicated from a replica object having the multi-valued attribute  
4 and the linked value, the method comprising:

5 comparing the conflict-resolution information associated with the linked  
6 value in the object with the conflict-resolution information associated with the  
7 linked value in the replica object;

8 identifying a replication conflict with the conflict-resolution information;

9 and

10 resolving the replication conflict with the conflict-resolution information.

11  
12 74. (original) A method as recited in claim 73, wherein the conflict-  
13 resolution information comprises a version number that corresponds to a version  
14 of the linked value, and the method further comprising:

15 determining if the linked value version number has been changed; and

16 updating the linked value of the attribute that has a lower version number  
17 with the linked value of the attribute that has a higher version number.



1 75. (original) A method as recited in claim 73, wherein the conflict-  
2 resolution information comprises an update timestamp that corresponds to when  
3 the linked value is changed, and the method further comprising:

4 determining if the linked value update timestamp has been changed; and  
5 updating the linked value of the attribute that has an earlier update  
6 timestamp with the linked value of the attribute that has a later update timestamp.

7  
8 76. (original) A method as recited in claim 73, wherein the conflict-  
9 resolution information comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when  
10 the linked value is created, and the method further comprising:

11 determining if the linked value creation timestamp has been changed; and  
12 updating the linked value of the attribute that has an earlier creation  
13 timestamp with the linked value of the attribute that has a later creation timestamp.

14  
15 77. (original) A method as recited in claim 73, wherein the conflict-  
16 resolution information comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when  
17 the linked value is created, a version number that corresponds to a version of the  
18 linked value, and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the linked value is  
19 changed.

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1        78. (original) A method as recited in claim 73, wherein the conflict-  
2 resolution information comprises a creation timestamp that corresponds to when  
3 the linked value is created, a version number that corresponds to a version of the  
4 linked value, and an update timestamp that corresponds to when the linked value is  
5 changed, and the method further comprises updating the linked value of the  
6 attribute if the linked value first has an earlier creation timestamp, second has a  
7 lower version number, and third has an earlier update timestamp.

8  
9        79. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer  
10 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform  
11 the method of claim 78.

12  
13        80. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer  
14 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform  
15 the method of claim 73.

1 **81. (currently amended)** A method, comprising:  
2 replicating a first object with a second object, the first object having an  
3 attribute comprised of ~~individual~~ linked values, the second object having an  
4 attribute comprised of ~~individual~~ linked values configured to have associated  
5 conflict-resolution data;

6 resolving first a replication conflict between the first object and the second  
7 object at an attribute level; and

8 resolving second, with the conflict-resolution data, a replication conflict  
9 between the first object and the second object at an attribute value level.

10  
11 **82. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 81, further  
12 comprising determining whether a linked value corresponding to the second object  
13 has conflict-resolution data and said replicating the linked value if said  
14 determining that the linked value has conflict-resolution data.

15  
16 **83. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 81, further  
17 comprising determining whether a linked value corresponding to the second object  
18 has non-null conflict-resolution data and said replicating the linked value if said  
19 determining that the linked value has non-null conflict-resolution data.

20  
21 **84. (currently amended)** A method as recited in claim 81, said  
22 resolving the replication conflict between the first object and the second object at  
23 the attribute value level in favor of a linked value that has conflict-resolution data.  
24  
25

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1        **85. (currently amended)**        A method as recited in claim 81, further  
2 comprising deleting a linked value corresponding to the second object if the linked  
3 value does not have conflict-resolution data and if the linked value is not  
4 replicated.

5  
6        **86. (original)**        A computer-readable medium comprising computer  
7 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform  
8 the method of claim 81.

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